From: Simmons, Denise
To: Josh Cochin
Subject: Re: Boycott Vote at the April 23rd Council Meeting
Date: Monday, April 16, 2018 7:02:31 PM

Thank you for your email. Please be advised although there have been several emails concerning and referencing a policy order on HP. The order has not and will not come before the council formally until this Thursday 3pm.

Under the open meeting law. Councilors (a majority) can not discuss an item that is or may come before the council unless it is at a public meeting. Given this fact, I have not seen the policy order, nor have I discuss the proposed order, with my the members of the council.

Please know, that you may come and speak to the policy order on Monday at the City Council meeting. For information on how to sign up for public comment please call Mary at the City Council office at 617-349-4280. You may also have your letter/comments as a a part of the council's agenda if you send your comments to the City Clerk before 3pm on Thursday, I believe I have that right.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your thoughts with me.

Denise Simmons

From: Josh Cochin <josh.cochin@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 15, 2018 8:33 PM
To: Simmons, Denise
Subject: Boycott Vote at the April 23rd Council Meeting

Dear Councilor Simmons,

I am writing to you to tell you of my opposition to efforts being brought before the council to boycott HP and demonize Israel at the behest of the BDS movement. Cambridge has always declared itself to be a welcoming place which does not tolerate prejudice and hate. I am counting on you to show this side of Cambridge, of which the boycott proponents are clearly ignorant. I believe that adopting such a measure would be prejudicial to Cambridge and counter to our shared Cantabrigian values.

The Cambridge City Council should not abdicate its responsibilities to an interest group whose purpose is to demonize Israel. Any resolution of this kind deserves a full and fair public hearing, including inviting experts and interested parties to weigh in openly before action is taken.

Singling out Israel and HP, amongst all the nations, companies and conflicts in the world, and holding them to a unique ethical standard raises troubling issues about the Cambridge City Council.

Thousands of American companies are working overseas and engaged in transactions that can be tied to questionable human rights practices; including numerous companies with Cambridge contacts.

In this instance, the Council is overlooking scores of other situations and electing to support dubious and largely unexamined claims against Israel made by an outside organization. If the Cambridge City Council elected to adopt a foreign policy that it applied without prejudice to nations and companies around the world, the issue of an ethical double standard would not be raised.

The BDS movement is detrimental to achieving peace. The establishment of a Palestinian state is a goal we share but will not be realized by extreme and deceptive claims that belie the hard reality on the ground. There are many people of goodwill, who are working to bridge the divide between Israelis and Palestinians. Boycotts, like the one under consideration, undermine these peacemakers, fuel polarization, and strengthen the hands of those who reject co-existence.

Sincerely,

Josh Cochin
463 Huron Ave